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LETTER

4 Duke.

SIR,

I Cannot blame your Curiosity in enquiring after the Particulars of the late Duel which has made so much Noise, and prov'd so Fatal to Two Peers of the Kingdom; and therefore in Compliance with your Desire, have made it my Business to get the best Information I could, both of the Grounds and Management of the Quarrel.

The most probable Occasion of the Difference between the Duke of Hamilton and the Lord Mobun was upon this Account, The Duke of Hamilton Married Anne, the Daugh-

Daughter of the late Lord *Gerard* of *Bromley*, an Heiress of a very great Fortune; the Lady *Gerard*, to prevent all future Contests and Disputes at Law, oblig'd the Duke upon his Marriage to give her a Bond of 10000 *l.* as a Security for not calling any Matters in Question relating to any Estate he might pretend to lay claim to by Right of his Wife.

This Lady *Gerard* was Sister to *Brandon*, late Earl of *Macclesfield*; (the Lord *Mohun* Married the Daughter of the Lady *Charlotte Orbey*, another Sister of the said Earl of *Macclesfield*;) who at his Decease made the Lord *Mohun* his Sole Heir and Executor.

Upon which the Duke of *Hamilton* thinking himself injured by the conveying away an Estate of about 5000 *l. per Annum*,



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inform'd belong'd to him by Right of Marriage, chose rather to forfeit his Bond of 10000 *l.* than not to vindicate his just Claim to so considerable an Estate: In pursuance of this, he exhibited a Bill in *Chancery* against the Lord *Mohun*; the Suit has been depending about 13 Years, and was to have been brought to an Issue on the very Day upon which they fought.

The Cause being so near a Determination, on *Thursday*, the 13th Instant, the Duke and the Lord *Mohun* met at Mr. *Orlebar's*, a Master in *Chancery*, about taking some *Depositions*, where Disputes arising, they came to such high Words, that the next Day the Lord *Mohun* sent a Challenge by Major-General *Mackartney*, (whom he had chose for his Second,) which he delivered to his Grace.

In



In the Evening they were all at the *Rose Tavern* in *Covent-Garden*; the Duke came there in his own Coach with Colonel *Hamilton*, and went into a Room one Pair of Stairs, and sent his Footman down, bidding him wait at the Coach: The Duke then ask'd for Major-General *Mackartney*, who came to him, and after a small Stay they parted.

The Lord *Mobun* and Major-General *Mackartney* went from thence to the *Queen's-Arms Tavern* in *Pall-mall*, where they Supp'd; and there my Lord dismiss'd his Servants, and went after and lay at the *Bagnio*, at both which Places his Lordship seem'd very Thoughtful, and under a deep Concern; but went to Bed, ordered a Servant to sit up, and call him precisely at Six in the Morning.

On



On *Friday* Night at Eleven a Clock the Duke sent a Servant to Monsieur *Buissiere*, an Eminent Surgeon, desiring him to come to him; Mr. *Buissiere* being in Bed, and indispos'd, enquired whether his Grace was ill; the Servant said, he did not appear to be so; whereupon Mr. *Buissiere* desired him to acquaint his Grace, that if there was any present Necessity he would come immediately, notwithstanding his Indisposition, otherwise he would attend his Grace in the Morning.

The Duke sent no other Message that Night, but early in the Morning a Gentleman from his Grace came to Mr. *Buissiere*, and told him his immediate Attendance was desired at *Hyde-Park*;

*Park*; Mr. *Buissiere* being in Bed, call'd up his Man, and ordered him to go along with the Gentleman, and said he would soon follow himself.

The Duke had chose Colonel *Thomas Hamilton* for his Second, and was so impatient that he took up the Colonel from his own Lodgings, and they both went to *Hyde-Park* about Seven in the Morning, where they found the Lord *Mobun*, and Major-General *Mackartney* behind the *White Barn* near the Ring.

After some Words exchanged between them, both Principals and Seconds, at a small distance from each other, immediately drew; the Two Lords after several desperate Wounds both fell; in the meanwhile Major-General *Mackartney* having

having the better of Colonel Hamilton, whom he had wounded, told him, *he was sensible his Life was in his Power*, and desired him to yield, telling him that the Lords were grappling on the Ground, and it was high Time to save them, if possible; and they both went accordingly.

The L. Mohan seeing Maj. Gen. Mackartney, had Strength enough left to take him by the Hand, bidding him *Farewel*, said he was a Dead Man, and desired him to turn him on his Face that he might Die the more easily, which Major-General Mackartney did, and his Lordship expired soon after.

The Duke likewise died of his Wounds, as his Servants were carrying him to his Coach. Mr. Buiss-



ere attended at his Grace's House, and grieved that he was so unfortunate not to be in a Condition to wait upon him the Night before, when perhaps it might have been in his Power by due Information to have prevented the Effusion of so much Noble and Illustrious Blood.

The Duke's Mortal Wound was in the upper Part of his Left Breast, running downwards into his Body about 14 Inches.

The Lord Mohun receiv'd a large Wound in his Groin, and another through his Right Side.

Major-General Mackartney made off, and Col. Hamilton was brought to the Half-Moon Tavern in Cheapside, where his Wound was dress'd by Mr. Woodward, a Surgeon:

You may, Sir, be desirous to have some Account of these Two Families, which, as far as I am inform'd, is thus. The

The D. of Hamilton had been Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber to K. Ch. II. and Envoy - Extraordinary from that Prince to the Court of France. He was created Duke of Brandon by her Majesty in the Year 1711. Upon the Death of the late Earl Rivers he was constituted Master-General of her Majesty's Ordnance; and in a Chapter lately held at Windsor was elected Knight Companion of the most Noble Order of the Garter. He is succeeded in Honour and Estate by his Eldest Son, the Marquiss of Clydsdale, an Infant of Twelve Years Old, who is with his Grandmother the Dutchess at her Palace of Hamilton in Scotland; and to the Comfort of the Family is a Young Prince of great Expectation. He has left behind him Two other Sons and a Daughter :

ter: I hear his Lady is now with Child, and within Two Months of her Time.

His Grace is universally lamented, because he was a Prince of unquestionable Bravery, and on all Occasions appear'd for the Honour of his Country, answerable to his high Birth and Dignity, being the First Prince of the Blood-Royal of Scotland, next to those of King James the Sixth's Line. His Affable and Courteous Temper, and other Noble Qualities, make his Loss so much the more bewail'd; and particularly for the Affliction it brings upon his Family, and that Excellent and Religious Princess, his Mother, who has so long been the Ornament of her Country.

The Lord Mohun is also very much lamented, as being the last Male of his Family.

Now,



Now, considering the great Favours which Her Majesty has conferr'd upon the former, more particularly by appointing him Ambassador-Extraordinary to the Court of *France* and how far the the latter was Zealous for the Welfare of his Countrey, we cannot sufficiently bewail the unseasonable Rashness of Mistaken Honour.

The Case which I have thus particularly related has prov'd the most Fatal in its Consequences of any that ever happen'd in this or any other Nation, that I have heard or read of, except one which I remember to have met with in an *Italian* Author, viz.

Upon

Upon a Quarrel between Two Noblemen, Seconds being engag'd, and Time and Place appointed, the Second to One of them coming into the Field, found nobody there but his Friend's Principal; after they had waited some Time for the rest, they Two agreed to decide the Quarrel, drew, and the Principal was kill'd; his Friend came, and seeing his Principal Dead, engag'd likewise, and was soon dispatch'd by the same Hand; at last his own Principal came, and the Second by that Time having reflected, that by engaging him in the Quarrel he had been the Cause of the Death of Two Persons, commanded him to draw in a Great Passion, and sent him hastily after the Rest, and then to compleat the Business stabb'd himself.

Now,

Now, Sir, it is to be hoped that the Members of your House upon their Meeting, will take some effectual Method to prevent this Ridiculous, as well as Pernicious, Custom of *Duelling*; I believe those Gentlemen, who were most against the *Bill* when it was last brought in, will change their Opinion upon this Accident, and be as hearty for it; and indeed it is a Scandal, that our Nation only, has not made sufficient Provision against this Crime, but that we may have the Liberty of Killing one another, and at the same Time reckon'd good Subjects, and be as much commended for Destroying as Propagating one of our *Species*.

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But



But, Sir, I shall not trouble you with any more Reflections of mine, but recommend some to you from a better Hand ; take it in that Fictitious Way in which the Author \* represents it as an Edict from *Pharamond*.

If I hear any farther Particulars, or find myself mistaken in any Part of my Information, you may expect a more perfect Account, from,

S I R,

*Tours, &c.*

*Pharamond's*

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\* *The Spectator.*

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*Pharamond's* **Edict**

AGAINST

**DUELS.**

*Pharamond, King of the Gauls, to  
all his Loving Subjects sendeth  
Greeting.*

‘ **W** Hereas it has come to our  
‘ Royal Notice and Ob-  
‘ servation, that in Contempt of  
‘ all Laws, Divine and Human,  
‘ it is of late become a Custom a-  
‘ mong the Nobility and Gentry  
‘ of this our Kingdom, upon slight  
‘ and trivial, as well as great and  
‘ urgent, Provocations, to invite

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‘ each

‘ each other into the Field, there  
 ‘ by their own Hands, and of their  
 ‘ own Authority, to decide their  
 ‘ Controversies by Combat, we  
 ‘ have thought fit to take the said  
 ‘ Custom into our Royal Con-  
 ‘ sideration, and find, upon En-  
 ‘ quiry into the usual Causes  
 ‘ whereon such Fatal Decisions  
 ‘ have arisen, that by this wicked  
 ‘ Custom, maugre all the Precepts  
 ‘ of our Holy Religion, and the  
 ‘ Rules of Right Reason, the  
 ‘ greatest Act of the Human Mind;  
 ‘ *Forgiveness of Injuries* is become  
 ‘ vile and shameful, that the Rules  
 ‘ of Good Society and Virtuous  
 ‘ Conversation are hereby invert-  
 ‘ ed; that the Loose, the Vain,  
 ‘ and the Impudent, insult the  
 ‘ Careful, the Discreet, and the  
 ‘ Modest; that all Virtue is sup-  
 ‘ press’d, and all Vice supported,  
 ‘ in



' in the one Act of being capable  
 ' to dare to the Death. We have  
 ' also farther, with great Sorrow  
 ' of Mind, observ'd that this dread-  
 ' ful Action, by long Impunity,  
 ' (our Royal Attention being em-  
 ' ployed upon more general Con-  
 ' cern,) is become Honourable,  
 ' and the Refusal to engage in it  
 ' Ignominious. In these our Roy-  
 ' al Cares and Enquiries we are  
 ' yet farther made to understand,  
 ' that the Persons of most emi-  
 ' nent Worth, and most Hopeful  
 ' Abilities, accompanied with the  
 ' strongest Passion for true Glo-  
 ' ry, are such as are most liable to  
 ' be involv'd in the Dangers ari-  
 ' sing from this Licence. Now  
 ' taking the said Premises into our  
 ' serious Consideration, and well  
 ' weighing that all such Emergen-  
 ' cies, (wherein the Mind is inca-  
 ' pable

' pable of commanding itself, and  
 ' where the Injury is too sudden  
 ' or too exquisite to be born,) are  
 ' particularly provided for by  
 ' Laws heretofore enacted ; and  
 ' that the Qualities of less Inju-  
 ' ries, like those of Ingratitude,  
 ' are too nice and delicate to come  
 ' under General Rules. We do re-  
 ' solve to blot this Fashion, or  
 ' Wantonness of Anger, out of  
 ' the Minds of our Subjects, by  
 ' our Royal Resolutions declar'd  
 ' in the Edict, as follow.

' No Person, who either Sends  
 ' or Accepts a Challenge, or the  
 ' Posterity of either, tho' no Death  
 ' ensues thereupon, shall be, af-  
 ' ter the Publication of this our  
 ' Edict, capable of bearing Office  
 ' in these our Dominions.

' The

' The Person who shall prove  
 ' the sending or receiving a Chal-  
 ' lenge, shall receive, to his own  
 ' Use and Property, the whole  
 ' Personal Estate of both Parties ;  
 ' and their Real Estate shall be  
 ' immediately vested in the next  
 ' Heir of the Offenders, in as  
 ' Ample Manner as if the said  
 ' Offenders were actually Decea-  
 ' sed.

' In Cases where the Laws  
 ' (which we have already granted  
 ' to our Subjects) admit of an  
 ' Appeal for Blood, when the  
 ' Criminal is condemned by the  
 ' said Appeal, he shall not only  
 ' suffer Death, but his whole  
 ' Estate, Real, Mixed and Perso-  
 ' nal, shall from the Hour of his  
 Death



Death be vested in the next Heir  
of the Person whose Blood he  
spilt.

That it shall not hereafter be  
in our Royal Power, or that of  
our Successors, to pardon the  
said Offences, or restore them in  
their Estates, Honour, or Blood  
for ever.

Given at our Court at Blois  
the 8th of February,

420, in the Second  
Year of our Reign.



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